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Subject to Legal Review for Clarity and Consistency

U.S. B Singapore Free Trade Agreement
Text of the Agreement

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Subject to Legal Review for Clarity and Consistency**CHAPTER 7 : SAFEGUARDS**

(7 March 2003)

ARTICLE 7.1 : APPLICATION OF A BILATERAL SAFEGUARD MEASURE

Subject to Articles 7.2 through 7.5, if as a result of the reduction or elimination of a customs duty under this Agreement, an originating good of the other Party is being imported into the territory of a Party in such increased quantities, in absolute terms or relative to domestic production, and under such conditions that the imports of such originating good from the other Party constitute a substantial cause of serious injury or threat thereof, to a domestic industry producing a like or directly competitive good, such Party may:

- (a) suspend the further reduction of any rate of customs duty on the good provided for under this Agreement for the good;
- (b) increase the rate of customs duty on the good to a level not to exceed the lesser of
 - (i) the most-favoured-nation (MFN) applied rate of duty on the good in effect at the time the action is taken, and
 - (ii) the MFN applied rate of duty on the good in effect on the day immediately preceding the date of entry into force of this Agreement; or
- (c) in the case of a customs duty applied to a good on a seasonal basis, increase the rate of duty to a level not to exceed the lesser of the MFN applied rate of duty that was in effect on the good for the immediately preceding corresponding season or the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 7.2 : CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

The following conditions and limitations shall apply with regard to a measure described in Article 7.1:

1. A Party shall notify the other Party in writing upon initiation of an investigation described in paragraph 2 and shall consult with the other Party as far in advance of taking any such measure as practicable, with a view to reviewing the information arising from the investigation, exchanging views on the measure and reaching an agreement on compensation as set out in Article 7.4. If a Party takes a provisional measure pursuant to Article 7.3, the Party shall also notify the other Party prior to taking such measure, and shall initiate consultations with the other Party immediately after such measure is taken.

2. A Party shall take a measure only following an investigation by that Party's competent authorities in accordance with Articles 3 and 4.2(c) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards; and to this end, Articles 3 and 4.2(c) of the WTO

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Agreement on Safeguards are incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*;

3. In the investigation described in paragraph 2, a Party shall comply with the requirements of Article 4.2(a) and (b) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards; and to this end, Article 4.2(a) and (b) are incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.

4. Negative injury determinations shall not be subject to modification, except pursuant to reviews by judicial or administrative tribunals, to the extent provided under domestic legislation.

5. The investigation shall in all cases be completed within one year following its date of institution.

6. No measure may be maintained:

- (a) except to the extent and for such time as may be necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury and to facilitate adjustment;
- (b) for a period exceeding two years; except that the period may be extended by up to two years if the competent authorities determine, in conformity with the procedures set out in paragraphs 1 through 5, that the measure continues to be necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury and to facilitate adjustment and that there is evidence that the industry is adjusting; or
- (c) beyond the expiration of the transition period, except with the consent of the Party against whose originating good the measure is taken.

7. No measure may be applied against the same originating good on which a measure has been taken or that has been subject to any other safeguard action⁷⁻¹ since the date of entry into force of the Agreement.

8. Where the expected duration of the measure is over one year, the importing Party shall progressively liberalize it at regular intervals during the period of application.

9. Upon the termination of the measure, the rate of customs duty shall be the rate which would have been in effect but for the measure.

ARTICLE 7.3 : PROVISIONAL MEASURES

In critical circumstances where delay would cause damage which it would be difficult to repair, a Party may take a measure described in Article 7.1(a), (b) or (c) on a provisional basis pursuant to a preliminary determination that there is clear evidence

⁷⁻¹ The Parties understand that “emergency action” does not include antidumping or countervailing measures.

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that imports from the other Party have increased as the result of the reduction or elimination of a customs duty under this Agreement, and such imports constitute a substantial cause of serious injury, or threat thereof, to the domestic industry. The duration of such provisional measure shall not exceed 200 days, during which time the requirements of Articles 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 shall be met. Any tariff increases shall be promptly refunded if the investigation described in Article 7.2.2 does not result in a finding that the requirements of Article 7.1 are met. The duration of any provisional measure shall be counted as part of the period described in Article 7.2.6(b).

ARTICLE 7.4 : COMPENSATION

The Party applying a measure described in Article 7.1 shall provide to the other Party mutually agreed trade liberalizing compensation in the form of concessions having substantially equivalent trade effects or equivalent to the value of the additional duties expected to result from the measure. If the Parties are unable to agree on compensation within 30 days in the consultations under Article 7.2, the Party against whose originating good the measure is applied may take action with respect to originating goods of the other Party that has trade effects substantially equivalent to the measure described in Article 7.1. The Party taking such action shall apply the action only for the minimum period necessary to achieve the substantially equivalent effects, and in any event, only while the measure under Article 7.1 is being applied.

ARTICLE 7.5 : GLOBAL SAFEGUARD MEASURES

Each Party retains its rights and obligations under Article XIX of GATT 1994 and the WTO Agreement on Safeguards. This Agreement does not confer any additional rights or obligations on the Parties with regard to global safeguard measures, except that a Party taking a global safeguard measure may exclude imports of an originating good from the other Party if such imports are not a substantial cause of serious injury or threat thereof.

ARTICLE 7.6 : DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Chapter:

- (a) **domestic industry** means the producers as a whole of the like or directly competitive product operating in the territory of a Party, or those whose collective output of the like or directly competitive products constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of those products;
- (b) **global safeguard measure** means a measure applied under Article XIX of GATT 1994 and the WTO Agreement on Safeguards;
- (c) **serious injury** means a significant overall impairment in the position of a domestic industry;

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- (d) **substantial cause** means a cause which is important and not less than any other cause.
- (e) **threat of serious injury** means serious injury that, on the basis of facts and not merely on allegation, conjecture or remote possibility, is clearly imminent; and
- (f) **transition period** means the ten-year period following entry into force of this Agreement;